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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/767,207	01/22/2001	Steven F. Bierman	VINTL.087A	1175

20995	7590	02/14/2007
KNOBBE MARTENS OLSON & BEAR LLP		
2040 MAIN STREET		
FOURTEENTH FLOOR		
IRVINE, CA 92614		

EXAMINER	
SCHELL, LAURA C	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3767	

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/14/2007	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Notice of this Office communication was sent electronically on the above-indicated "Notification Date" and has a shortened statutory period for reply of 3 MONTHS from 02/14/2007.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

jcartee@kmob.com
eOAPilot@kmob.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/767,207

Applicant(s)

BIERMAN, STEVEN F.

Examiner

Laura C. Schell

Art Unit

3767

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 November 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 51-72 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 61-69, 71, 72 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 51-60 and 70 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claims 51 and 52 objected to because of the following informalities: As the preamble of the claim already recites "with a retainer" it might be more appropriate to later in claims refer to the retainer as "the retainer", where this is recited in the third line from the bottom in claims 51 and 52. Appropriate correction is required.

Claims 61 and 64 are objected to because of the following informalities: in the second line from the bottom of the claim, "including" should be changed to "include". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim 68 objected to because of the following informalities: the word "including" in the second line should be changed to "include". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 51-60 and 70 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 51 recites the limitation "the proximal end" in fourth and fifth lines from the bottom. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 52 recites the limitation "the axis" in the fourth line from the bottom of the claim. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 53 recites the limitation "the distal end" and "the proximal end" in eighth line from the bottom and the third line from the bottom, respectively. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 54 recites the limitation "the distal end" and "the proximal end" in eighth line from the bottom and the third line from the bottom of the claim, respectively. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 55 recites the limitation "the distal end" and "the proximal end" in eighth line from the bottom and the third line from the bottom of the claim, respectively. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 70 recites the limitation "the distal portion" in the third line. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claims 56-60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 56, in particular, recites that the contact member extends "outwardly and generally in an axial direction" in the fifteenth line from the bottom of the claim. It is unclear to the examiner if Applicant means to say that the contact member extends in the radial direction. It would appear that by "contact member", Applicant is referring to one of the radially extending members, and if this is

correct, it would seem that the contact member would extend in the radial direction, and extending in the axial direction would be equated with extending longitudinally.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 61-69, 71 and 72 are allowed.

Claims 51-60 and 70 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

As allowable subject matter has been indicated, applicant's reply must either comply with all formal requirements or specifically traverse each requirement not complied with. See 37 CFR 1.111(b) and MPEP § 707.07(a).

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: a spin nut with a receptacle that engages with the outer a radially extending member of an elongated body with the same cross-section, so as to inhibit rotational and longitudinal movement, but when the receptacle and radially extending member are not engaged, allows the spin nut to move longitudinally and rotate freely.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Laura C. Schell whose telephone number is (571) 272-7881. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9am-5:30pm.

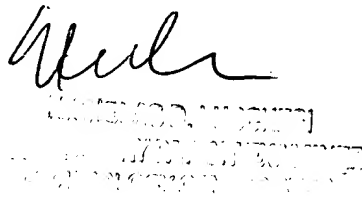
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kevin Sirmons can be reached on (571) 272-4965. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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A handwritten signature in black ink is positioned above a rectangular official stamp. The stamp contains the text "UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE" in a bold, sans-serif font, with "WASHINGTON, DC 20590" printed below it in a smaller font.